

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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STATE/EA/K/DODONOHUE

STATE/EB/CSB/OCA/EFEATHERSTONE

COM/BIEPR/SKATZ/DAS

COM/DIBA/TREED/AS

COM/ELRICHARDSON/SEC/COMM

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O P 152043Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 091380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS; BEXP: KS; US

SUBJECT: SEVENTH MINISTERIAL MEETING

FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER FROM SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
RICHARDSON

1. FORTUNATELY, A BREAK IN MY SCHEDULE IN LATE MAY ENABLES
US TO CONSIDER SCHEDULING THE SEVENTH MINISTERIAL
MEETING DURING THAT PERIOD. I KNOW THAT THIS WILL COME AS
WELCOME NEWS TO YOU AND THAT WE MAY COUNT ON YOUR FULL
SUPPORT TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT.

2. I HAVE WRITTEN TO MINISTER CHANG TO EXPRESS MY PLEASURE
AT THE PROSPECT OF A MEETING AND TO INQUIRE, SPECIFICALLY,
WHETHER THE PERIOD MAY 21-25 WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR HIM.

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ALTHOUGH THE LETTER IS ON ITS WAY TO YOU, I WOULD APPRECIATE

YOUR TRANSMITTING THE TEXT TO HIM IN ADVANCE, SO THAT BOTH SIDES MAY MOVE AHEAD EXPEDITIOUSLY IF TH DATES ARE ACCEPTABLE.

3. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I LOOK FORWARD AS WELL TO VISITING WITH YOU AND YOUR STAFF. ALTHOUGH, AS HOST, THE KOREANS WILL HAVE THE LEAD, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL LET ME HAVE YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON THE MEETING ITSELF, TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD WISH TO RECOMMEND. I TENTATIVELY PLAN TO ARRIVE IN SEOUL LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 21, AND TO DEPART EARLY TUESDAY, MAY 25. TRAVEL WILL BE BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

4. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF MY LETTER TO MINISTER CHANG:

HIS EXCELLENCY

YIE JOON CHANG

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SEOUL

DEAR MR. CHANG:

ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS TT TO ME BY MY PREDECESSOR, ROGERS MORTON, WAS THAT I SEEK AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT YOUR DYNAMIC AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY. HE TOLD ME OF HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FULFILL PLANS FOR HOLDING THE SEVENTH KOREA-UNITED STATES COMMERCE MINISTERS' MEETING, BUT SUGGESTED THAT OUR MUTUAL COMMITMENT TO THESE TALKS COULD WELL AFFORD ME THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MY FIRST TRIP ABROAD AS SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

I WOULD INDEED LIKE TO SEE FOR MYSELF SOMETHING OF THE DRAMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF WHICH I HAVE HEARD SO MUCH.

EVEN E IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, WOULD BE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND TO CONTINUE OUR CUSTOM OF MEETINGS TO DISCUSS TOPICS OF MUTUAL COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC INTEREST. GIVEN THE STRENGTH OF THAT GROMING RELATIONSHIP, I AM CERTAIN THAT THERE WOULD BE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT.

MY SCHEDULE IS SUCH THAT A VISIT TO KOREA DURING THE PERIOD MAY 21-25 WOULD BE POSSIBLE, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LETTING ME KNOW IF YOUR SCHEDULE WOULD ENABLE YOU TO CONSIDER THESE DATES FOR THE SEVENTH MINISTERIAL MEETING.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU AND TO THE PROSPECT OF OUR MEETING.

WITH WARM REGARD,

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SINCERELY,

ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON KISSINGER

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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